the Army Staff. Moreover, mechanisms for achieving coordination in the counter insurgency operations in the North Eastern States and for intelligence sharing exist. These are reviewed from time to time and appropriate steps for improvements, if any, are taken.

Interaction of DBT with Scientists

*614. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scientists with whom the Department of Biotechnology interact every year;

(b) how many of them are from Uttar Pradesh and how many are from Maharashtra;

(c) what is the nature of this interaction; and

(d) what are the benefits that have accrued by this interaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Department is interacting with more than 5000 scientists per year from various research and academic institutions in different States. Out of this about 300 are from Laboratories and Universities in Uttar Pradesh and 275 in Maharashtra.

(c) The nature of this interaction is in the form of research projects, task force meetings, site visits, training courses, brain storming sessions, popular lectures etc. Major scientific gatherings like national and international symposia, Indian Science Congress Sessions, meetings organised by various professional societies also provide forum for this interaction.

(c) The benefits which accrue to the scientists through such interactions are many. They are encouraged to develop relevant research proposals either individually or jointly with other scientists. Opportunities are provided to young scientists to interact with the senior scientists, and generate nationally relevant research & development projects with their guidance. It also helps them to keep abreast of latest developments in this field.

R & D In the Areas of Plant and Animal Cell Culture

*615. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the R&D efforts going on in our country in the areas of plant and animal cell culture and immunology besides recombitant DNA techniques;

(b) what are the new openings for product and process development being made for these in our country; and

(c) what steps are being taken to encourage the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) A number of R&D programmes have been started in the areas of Plant and Animal Cell Culture and Immunology by various research institutions. Centres for plant molecular biology have been working on important crops like wheat, rice, chickpea and brassica. Two pilot plant facilities for large scale production of tisue cultured plants have been set up at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and Tata Energy Research Instt. New Delhi, in